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October 2001

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

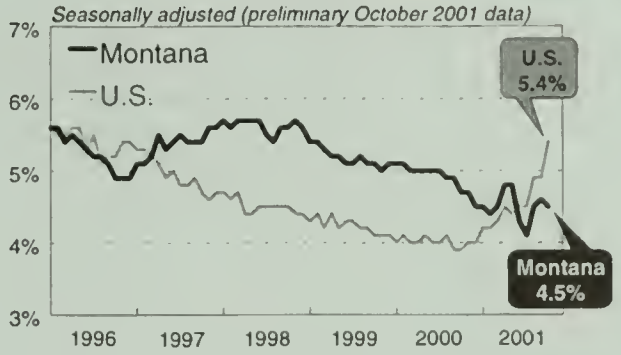
Not seasonally adjusted

	Oct 2000	Oct 2001*
UNITED STATES	3.6%	5.0%
MONTANA	4.3%	4.0%
Cascade **	4.5%	4.2%
Missoula **	2.8%	3.2%
Yellowstone **	3.2%	3.4%
Beaverhead	3.5%	2.5%
Big Horn	18.8%	17.6%
Blaine	4.7%	3.6%
Broadwater	3.7%	2.9%
Carbon	4.0%	4.8%
Carter	1.4%	2.1%
Chouteau	2.4%	2.7%
Custer	3.5%	2.5%
Daniels	1.8%	1.6%
Dawson	2.4%	2.2%
Deer Lodge	6.1%	4.9%
Fallon	3.4%	2.1%
Fergus	4.1%	3.6%
Flathead	2.9%	5.3%
Gallatin	2.6%	2.6%
Garfield	2.9%	1.4%
Glacier	11.7%	10.6%
Golden Valley	2.5%	2.1%
Granite	7.4%	5.3%
Hill	4.1%	3.6%
Jefferson	5.0%	5.1%
Judith Basin	3.4%	2.4%
Lake	5.1%	5.8%
Lewis & Clark	3.6%	4.2%
Liberty	3.0%	2.8%
Lincoln	8.6%	7.4%
McCone	1.8%	2.1%
Madison	3.7%	2.1%
Meagher	6.5%	4.2%
Mineral	7.1%	6.0%
Musselshell	6.5%	6.3%
Park	4.7%	3.9%
Petroleum	2.4%	0.5%
Phillips	3.3%	2.6%
Pondera	4.4%	3.6%
Powder River	1.8%	1.4%
Powell	4.4%	3.5%
Prairie	3.6%	2.3%
Ravalli	4.5%	3.9%
Richland	4.3%	3.0%
Roosevelt	7.6%	6.3%
Rosebud	7.4%	5.5%
Sanders	6.0%	5.9%
Sheridan	2.5%	2.1%
Silver Bow	5.9%	4.2%
Stillwater	4.3%	2.7%
Sweet Grass	2.3%	1.6%
Teton	3.3%	2.9%
Toole	2.6%	3.0%
Treasure	3.9%	3.1%
Valley	3.0%	2.9%
Wheatland	3.3%	2.1%
Wibaux	2.8%	1.9%

**October 2001 rate preliminary*
*** Cascade=Great Falls MSA*
Missoula= Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

OCTOBER 2001 HIGHLIGHTS

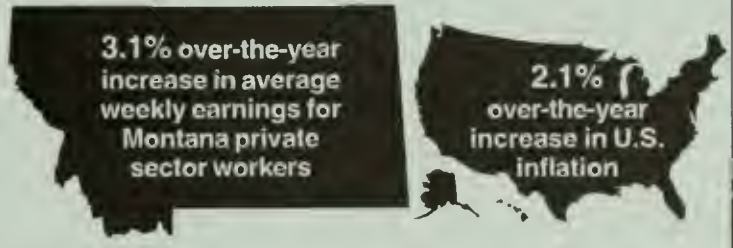
Unemployment



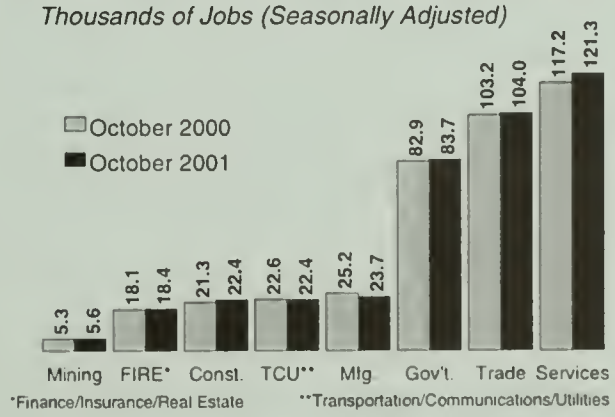
Montana's 4.5 percent unemployment rate in October was down one-tenth of a percent over the month, and down two-tenths of a percent over the year.

Earnings

Montana's average weekly October earnings outpaced the over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.


3.1% over-the-year increase in average weekly earnings for Montana private sector workers
2.1% over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation

Nonag Payroll Employment



Montana's nonagricultural payroll employment was up 1.4 percent over the year. Services was up 4,100 jobs. Manufacturing was down 1,500 jobs.

NEW FROM THE 2000 CENSUS

Native Americans

According to the 2000 Census, 56,068 Native Americans live in Montana, making up 6.2 percent of the state's total population.

- 65.0 percent live on reservations.
- 35.0 percent live off reservations.

The Blackfeet Reservation is home to the largest population of Montana's Native Americans, followed by the Flathead Reservation and the Fort Peck Reservation.

For more information, visit the Montana Census and Economic Information Center website at http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us.

ONLINE AT

Research & Analysis Bureau
Workforce Services Division
Montana Dept. of Labor & Industry
840 Helena Ave.
P.O. Box 1728
Helena MT 59624
406-444-2430
FAX 406-444-2638
TDD 406-444-0532

http://rad.dli.state.mt.us/

TOURISM CLAIMS MOSTLY STEADY

Initial unemployment insurance (UI) filings from industries associated with tourism in Montana show claims were down in September and up in October this year.

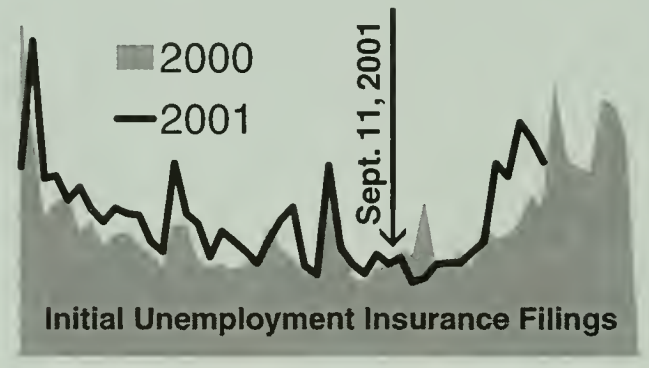
A comparison of October 2001 to October 2000, however, shows a minimal over-the-year increase of 82 initial UI filings combined in the following industries:

- Over the year, air transportation was up only 4 initial UI filings.
- Eating and drinking places was down 2.
- Hotels and other lodging places was up 63.
- Amusement and recreation was up 17.

UI CLAIMS SHOW LITTLE CHANGE FOLLOWING SEPT. 11 EVENTS

An examination of initial unemployment insurance filings shows filings did not increase much in September over what was experienced in previous years. During the last three weeks in October, however, there were about 400 more claims filed than were expected.

- It appears that the terrorist events of Sept. 11 cannot be blamed for the October increase.
- Two layoffs associated with the wood products industry occurred, but both were short term and laid-off workers have already returned to their jobs.



L🌍🌍KING FOR STATS IN BRIEF?

Our monthly *Statistics in Brief* publication is on our Internet website now. Here's how to find it:

- Go to http://rad.dli.state.mt.us/
- Click on "Publications & Other Data"
- Then click on "Statistics in Brief"

We will do our best to provide information in accessible format, on request, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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